

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16 and 19-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 15 and 16 are allowed. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-14, 19, 21-25 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vook et al. (U.S. Patent 5,583,866) in view of Omi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,940,831). Claims 20 and 26-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1, Vook et al. and Omi et al. fails to teach or suggest the technical features described in the currently presented claim 1, that is, (1) a transceiving unit receives a requested priority from a slave device; (2) a controller determines a priority of the slave device considering the requested priority and priorities of the other slave devices that are currently linked; (3) the controller determines a frequency of communication according to the priority of the slave device; and (4) a memory stores the frequency of communication of the slave device.

With respect to the rejection of claim 8, Vook et al. and Omi et al. fails to teach or suggest the technical features described in the currently presented claim 8, that is, (1) a master device receives the requested priority from at least one slave device; (2) the master determines and assigns the at least one slave device with a priority considering the requested priority and priorities of the other slave devices that are currently linked; and (3) at least one slave device transmits the requested priority according to the amount of data to be transmitted to the master device.

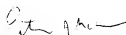
Accordingly. Applicants respectfully submit that, since neither Vook et al. nor Omi et al. teaches or suggests the features described in claims 1 and 8, it is not obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to reach the invention described in claims 1 and 8 even by combining Vook et al. and Omi et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-14, 19, 21-25 and 30 also cannot be regarded as being obvious from Vook et al. in view of Omi et al., and are allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or 8.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. McKenna  
Registration No. 38,551

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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